postsecondary **CAREER & TECHNICAL**

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128 - 10th Avenue, S.W., P.O Box 43105 Olympia, Washington 98504-3105 Telephone: 360.753.5662 Fax: 360.586.5862 www.wtb.wa.gov E-mail: wtecb@wtb.wa.gov

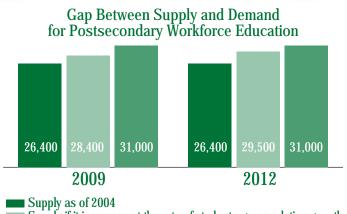
Job Forecast

Over the next five to seven years, Washington State employers will need more workers with some form of postsecondary vocational training than any other educational level.

The shortage for workers with job-specific skills is already serious. According to a 2005 survey of Washington businesses, 22,160 firms had difficulty finding qualified applicants with a vocational degree or certificate. The result: their productivity was reduced and their sales lowered.

To meet the need for more skilled workers, the state's community and technical colleges, its private career schools, and its apprenticeship programs have attempted to increase the number of people in training, while at the same time, encouraging them to complete their training. The results: in the 2003-04 school year, community and technical colleges prepared 21,100 new workers; apprenticeship programs 1,300; and private career schools 4,000. Unfortunately, that is not enough.

If there is no increase in the 2003-04 school year supply, Washington employers will only be able to fill about 85 percent of the their expected demand. They will be short 4,600 workers annually.



Supply if it increases at the rate of student-age population growth

Demand based on number of net job openings

Adding 4,600 more full-time equivalent students (FTEs) will not be enough to close the gap. It takes the community and technical colleges' 3.1 workforce students to produce one newly-prepared worker, mainly because many students leave school early or need remedial classes. In order to fill the gap, the community and technical colleges will need an increase of 1,170 FTE workforce education students annually between 2004 and 2010. This is in addition to the increased need for academic transfer and basic education students.

The benefits of these vocational training programs to both the public and the participant are obvious. The average newly trained worker from a community and technical college job preparatory program, after only seven to nine months earns \$13.37 an hour and can expect his or her lifetime earnings to increase by over \$90,000. This will generate tax revenues that far exceed the cost of the program.

	Job Preparatory	
	STUDENT	PUBLIC
Earnings	\$90,455	
Fringe Benefits	\$18,091	
Taxes	-\$15,603	+\$15,603
Program Costs	-\$3,869	-\$7,560

The current supply of newly trained workers coming out of community and technical colleges, private career schools, or apprenticeship programs will not meet the projected employer demand for workers with more than one year and up to, but less than, four years of postsecondary education or training. To close the supply/demand gap completely by 2012, the state will need about 1,170 community and technical college workforce student FTEs per year over and above 2004 levels. And while there are costs involved in providing such programs, the individual and public benefits far exceed the costs of educating such workers.



